REEDLEY COLLEGE

**POLISCI 2 - Introduction to American Government Course # 59331**

Spring 2021              Online

**INSTRUCTOR**:  **Nick K. Gera**, *JD, MBA, MSc.*       TELEPHONE: 210-934-8787

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**OFFICE HOURS**:

Office Hours:  Sundays 12:00pm – 4:00pm (estimated); please schedule prior to meet. Zoom Code is 277-962-5817

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**:

**American Government: Institutions and Policies, Loose-leaf Version, 16th + MindTap Political Science, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card 16th Edition; ISBN: 978-1337806824**

In the Modules section of Canvas there will be instructions for how to enroll in Mindtap. Please follow those instructions

**MINDTAP ACCESS FOR ONLINE WORK** -  https://scccd.instructure.com/courses/65559/modules/items/2955746

**Cengage Office Hours for Students** to help with registration and access to all digital platforms. Mon-Fri, 12:00-2:00 PST [https://cengage.zoom.us/j/96564575500.](https://cengage.zoom.us/j/96564575500)

**Customer/Technical Support**: <https://cengage.com/support> Login, create a case and then call for quick assistance: 800.354.9706

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**:

POLSCI-2 SLO1: Recognize the Constitutional processes and principles as they occur in modern U.S. and California politics.

POLSCI-2 SLO2: Relate the structures, roles and powers of the national, state and local governments.

POLSCI-2 SLO3: Recognize the impact of various "policy inputs" on the development of public policy in the United States and in California.

POLSCI-2 SLO4: Identify the categories of policies made by governments within the United States, and relate the questions underlying these policies.

Student Learning Outcomes are statements about what the discipline faculty hope you will be able to do at the end of the course.  This is NOT a guarantee: the ultimate responsibility for whether you will be able to do these things lies with you, the student.  In addition, the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes is done by the department in order to evaluate the program as a whole, and not to evaluate individual faculty performance.

**ATTENDANCE:** This is an online course and your main portion for attendance will be your discussion posts; they are mandatory.  A student with more than three weeks behind in course work (including discussion posts) shall be dropped from the course.

**QUIZZES**:  There will be a total of 16 short quizzes and assignments; they will be due weekly on the Cengage Mindtap platform. Please refer to the files section on how to register. These quizzes are not difficult if you read and pay attention.

**WRITTEN REPORTS:**  There  will be three term papers about the three branches of government.  Please see details under Assignments. All written assignments must include the following information on a COVER SHEET:

Name of Instructor, Course Name and Code, Title of Paper, Student Name, Student Number, and Due Date.

Please cite your references using APA

For your papers to be graded, THEY MUST BE TYPED AND TURNED IN ON TIME.  Well-written papers include focus, logic, organization, and ideas that are well developed and supported.  They are grammatically correct with proper punctuation and spelling.  Poorly written assignments will be marked “unacceptable” and will be returned to you without credit.

**GRADING ILLUSTRATION**:  The total number of points you accumulate over the semester will determine your grade.  For example:

3 Papers                                                            = 300

16  Chapter Quizzes, (30 points per)             = 480

Class contribution on discussion boards       = 220 points\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                                                        1,000 TOTAL POSSIBLE

**Grading Scale**:

* 925-1000 – A
* 900-924 – A-
* 875-899 – B+
* 825-874 – B
* 800-824 – B-
* 775-799 – C+
* 700-774 – C
* 600-699 – D
* Below 600 - F

**DROP POLICY**:  If you decide to drop this course, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR** **FILLING OUT ALL OF THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK**.  For more details on dropping a class, please refer to the admissions and records office, the Reedley College catalogue or the Reedley College Class Schedule.

**CONDUCT**:  PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.  IF YOU ARE SUSPECTED OF PLAGIARIZING OR CHEATING, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT, EXAM, ETC.  IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**:  If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation, or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Class Schedule:**

(Including Due Dates)

**Week 1 Jan 18-24**

* Read Chapter 1
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 1 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* MANDATORY Discussion post by January 22

**Week 2 Jan 25-31**

* Read Chapter 2
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 2 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 3 Feb 1- 7**

* Read Chapter 3
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 3 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 4 Feb 8-14**

* Read Chapter 4
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 4 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 5 Feb 15-21**

* Read Chapter 5
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 5 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 6 Feb 22-28**

* Read Chapter 6
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 6 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 7 Mar 1 - 7**

* Read Chapter 7
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 7 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.
* Term Paper 1 due March 5th (Friday) before midnight.

**Week 8 Mar 8 - 14**

* Read Chapter 8
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 8 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 9 Mar 15 - 21**

* Read Chapter 9
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 9 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 10 Mar 22 -28**

* Read Chapter 10
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 10 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 11 Mar 29 - Apr 4**

* SPRING BREAK

**Week 12 Apr 5- 11**

* Read Chapter 11
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 11 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 13 Apr 12- 18**

* Read Chapter 12
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 12 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.
* Term Paper 2 due  April 16th (Friday) before midnight.

**Week 14 Apr 19- 25**

* Read Chapter 13
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 13 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 15 Apr 26 - May 2**

* Read Chapter 14
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 14 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Friday before midnight.

**Week 16 May 3 - May 9**

* Read Chapter 15
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 15 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.
* Term Paper 3 due  May 7th (Friday) before midnight.

**Week 17 May 10 - May 19**

* Read Chapter 16
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 16 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.

**THIS SYLLABUS AND THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE COURSE ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS THE INSTRUCTOR DEEMS NECESSARY.**